

ANGLER GUIDE

Fishing

The Blue River supports quality size channel catfish and carp. It also supports populations of largemouth bass, bluegill and green sunfish, with good numbers of intermediate sized fish. The latter three species are probably more important for catch-and-release fishing especially for anglers who wade fish. If fishing pressure increases substantially, restrictive harvest regulations would probably be needed to provide sustained quality angling.

No angler creel information is available for the Blue River or any of its tributaries. Fishing pressure is probably moderate. Most anglers probably fish for catfish and carp using live and prepared baits. Although most fishing occurs upstream from 63rd Street, all reaches of the river are fished. Health advisories related to chlordane contaminated fish have probably reduced angling and harvest of fish in recent years.

Artificial Stockings

KDWP stocked 24 adult spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) in two reaches of Indian Creek in 1985 (USFWS 1986; John Reinke - KDWP, personal communication). To date, the results of these stockings have not been evaluated.

No other known fish stockings by public agencies have taken place in basin streams. Due to its proximity to an urban area, illegal stocking of exotic fish by local aquarium owners probably occurs throughout the basin. Basin streams also receive fish in overflow waters from impoundments.

Present Regulations on Streams Within the Basin

The Blue River and its tributaries fall under statewide fishing regulations of Missouri (Missouri fishing regulations) and Kansas. No special management units exist at this time. If fishing increases substantially, restrictive harvest regulations may be needed to protect some sport fish populations.

Angler Access

Much of the Blue River corridor from Swope Park up stream to the Kansas-Missouri state line (17 miles) is in public ownership, so if you're willing to walk a little, finding a fishing spot should be simple. Wade fishing opportunities exist from the Kansas state line at (Kenneth Road) downstream to Red Bridge. Most of this stretch is shallow, but deeper pools hold plenty of sunfish and an occasional channel catfish or largemouth bass. If you want to fish from a canoe or small boat, check out the 3 1/2 mile-stretch of river between Brown Athletic field (Blue Ridge Blvd.) and Holmes Road) and Red Bridge Road. A canoe launching area at Brown Athletic field provides good access to the river, especially during periods of moderately high flow. This area

(especially the deeper holes between riffles) supports good numbers of channel catfish and carp. Largemouth bass, flathead catfish and crappie are not as abundant, but some quality size fish are caught from time to time. Anglers wanting to harvest and eat their catch should read the fish consumption advisors issued by the Missouri Department of Health. The upper reaches of the Blue River are ideal for floating when the river stage is between 6.0 and 8.0 feet at the Bannister Road gaging station. If you have access to the Internet, and want to check the current river stage, point your browser to the following address: USGS gages.